

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-0060V

UNPUBLISHED

ERIN HARLAND,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: July 22, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus Diphtheria acellular  
Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Bridget Candace McCullough, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Kyle Edward Pozza, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On January 21, 2020, Erin Harland filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as defined on the Vaccine Injury Table or, in the alternative, was caused-in-fact by the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis vaccine she received on January 19, 2018. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 2, 17. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 22, 2021, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On July 22, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$108,753.41,

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

representing \$107,500.00 for her pain and suffering and \$1,253.41 for her past unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$108,753.41, representing \$107,500.00 for her pain and suffering and \$1,253.41 for her past uneimburseable expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

ERIN HARLAND,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-60V

Chief Special Master Brian H. Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On June 22, 2021, respondent filed a **Vaccine Rule 4(c)** report conceding that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 21. Thereafter, on the same date, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”) and related sequela. ECF No. 22.

**I. Amount of Compensation**

Respondent now proffers that, based on the Chief Special Master’s entitlement ruling and the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded **\$108,753.41**. The award is comprised of the following: \$107,500.00 for pain and suffering, and \$1,253.41 for past unreimbursed expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**. Petitioner agrees.

## II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's damages decision and the Court's judgment award the following: <sup>1</sup>

### A. Petitioner's Damages

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through:

a lump sum of **\$108,753.41**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**.

Petitioner agrees.

### B. Guardianship

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

/s/ KYLE E. POZZA

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